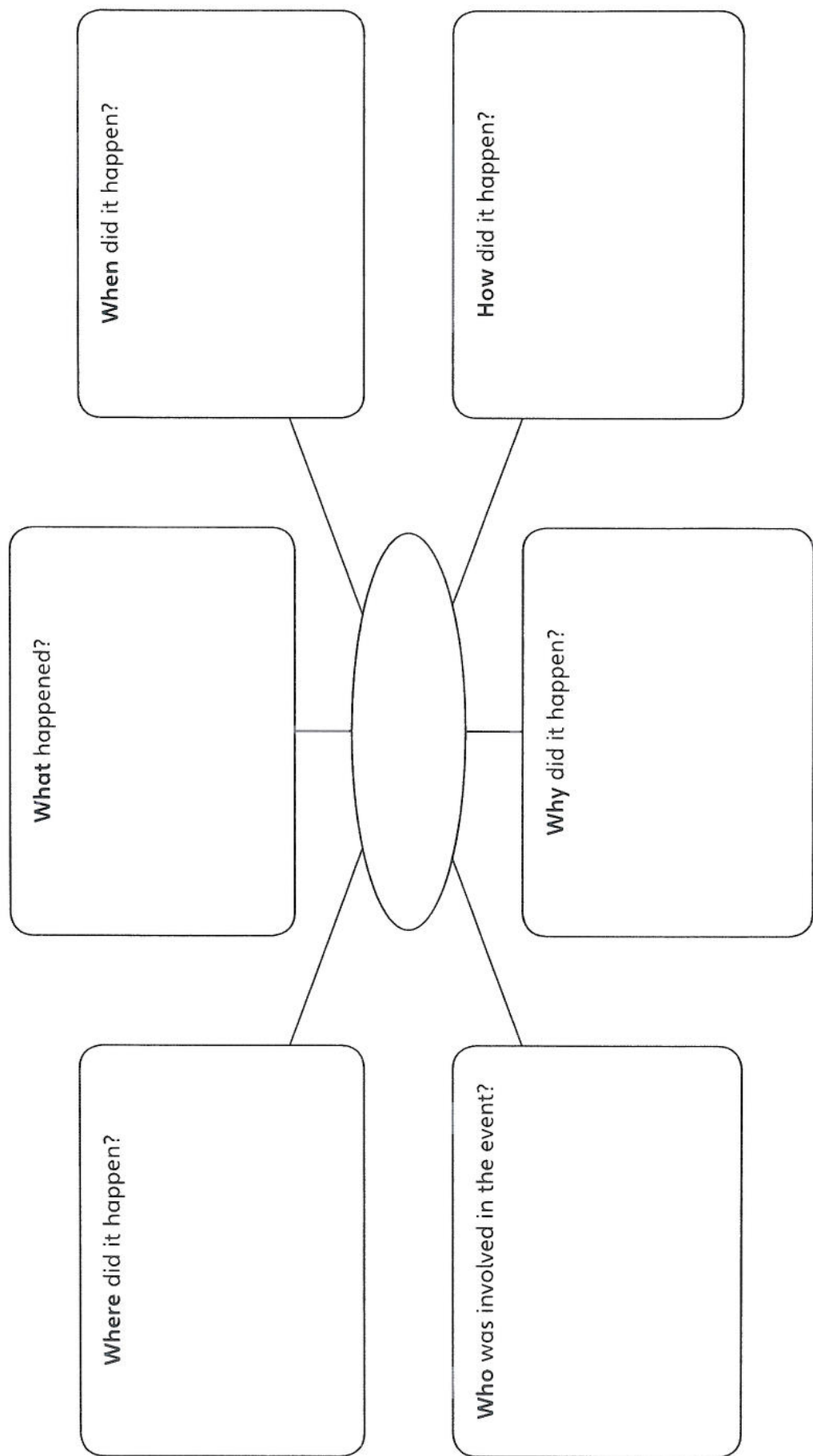




Current events summary

Topic Your name/s Date



Homing cows in daring midnight breakout

CHRIS ORMOND

A Central Hawke's Bay farmer had his work cut out for him when his mob of dairy cows staged a midnight breakout and headed along State Highway 2 toward Norsewood.

Central Hawke's Bay District Council bylaws officer Bruce Kitto, who monitors escaped farm stock, said the dairy cows, which had been shifted from a Norsewood property to one in Whakarara Road off SH50, were obviously not satisfied with their new

home. During the night they somehow managed to undo a gate latch and set off on a journey back to their more-favoured Norsewood pastures.

A portion of the mob had wandered down Whakarara Road, turned right on to the highway, and were 15 to 20km from their starting point and spread out by the time they were caught at 8am.

Mr Kitto said it appeared the cattle had taken a few wrong turns down side roads on the way, but had realised they were on the wrong track,

turned around and continued in the right direction.

Although little could be done to stop such a determined escape, Mr Kitto said cases in which stock escaped because boundary fences were in a state of disrepair were taken seriously. There had been two accidents involving vehicles and stock last month.

On one occasion a driver had to be cut from a vehicle after hitting a cow.

Mr Kitto urged farmers to be vigilant. If found guilty of negligence, they could face serious charges, he said.

ODD SPOT

A black bear walked into a New Hampshire home through an open door, ate two pears and a bunch of grapes, took a drink from the family fishbowl and grabbed a stuffed bear on its way out the door. Mary Beth Parkinson says the bear apparently took advantage of the open door to get into her kitchen in Laconia. She thinks the garage door going up scared the bear into fleeing. She says she arrived in time to save the fish.

Let sleeping crocs lie

■ THAILAND

WHILE most people regard crocodiles as fearsome creatures with a yen for human flesh, one man considers his pet croc a source of comfort.

Prayoon Thongjon, 42, named Kheng, who sleeps with him. Prayoon caught it while fishing three years ago and has kept it ever since.

"Whenever I went to bed he would follow and scratch the mosquito net over my mattress as though he was begging to join me. I gave in eventually and let him in."

Prayoon says Kheng is a model pet, beloved by his son and two dogs. — AP

Sewn lip on the mend

A MAN whose lip was sewn back on in a two-hour operation after being retrieved from a busy central Wellington pavement where it had lain for two hours, is on the mend, his surgeon says.

Hutt Hospital plastic surgeon Jim Armstrong said the 28-year-old man was doing well, despite problems keeping his lip bleeding, which was necessary to en-

sure blood vessels connected with the reattached part.

He lost a third of his upper lip. It appeared that he had been "glassed" in a fight on Sunday at about 3am on Courtenay Place.

"His lip is very bruised and swollen and discoloured, but the edges are showing signs of healing and there is no sign of infection," Mr Armstrong said.

Dog nurses liger cubs

A Chinese zoo official says two rare cubs born to a male lion and a female tiger are being nursed by a dog after they were abandoned by their mother. They were fed by the tiger cubs, born in eastern China, being abandoned. Two died of weakness. A dog who had just given birth is feeding the surviving cubs.

— Agencies